

BINDWEED.

(Convolvulus.)

Class, Pentandria. Order, Monogynia. N. O., Convolvulaceæ.

We are often led to prize and also to admire rare flowers, and if nursed in a hot-house and attended with expense, they are often thought highly of, whilst, perhaps, they do not possess a tenth part of the beauty, richness, or delicacy of many of the flowers with which summer with a liberal hand graces our wild scenery; and amongst the number the large white cups of the Great Bindweed (*Convolvulus sepium*) are not to be excelled by any flower in pureness of tint, beauty of form and gracefulness of growth. The large heart-shaped leaves look exceedingly handsome trailing about our hedges, and occasionally throwing out its beautiful cup.

"The Bindweed pure and pale,
That sues to all for aid,
And when rude storms assail
Her snowy virgin veil,
Doth like some timid maid
In conscious weakness most secure,
Unscath'd its sternest shocks endure."

The flower stalks are square, and it has heart-shaped bractæas close under the flower, which are sometimes tinged with rose colour.

"How fair her pendant wreath
O'er brush and brake is twining;
While meekly there beneath,
Midst fern and blossom'd heath,
Her lovely sister shining;
Tinged with such gentle hues as streak
A slumbering infant's glowing cheek."

AGNES STRICKLAND.

The Small Bindweed (*C. arvensis*) is very common in corn fields, the root is creeping, and, like the former species, if it once gets into the arable land, or a garden hedge, it is impossible to eradicate it. In the corn field its slender stalks encircle the corn and injures the produce, and the farmer well knows the difficulty experienced to expel its tenacious roots from his cultivated ground.

"We merry flowers are running
The meadow mazes through,
And be farmers e'er so cunning,
We're as cunning too.

"Up an ear of barley
We nimbly twist and twirl,
To deck its brown stem early,
With a wreath of pink and pearl.

"We climb the poppy's hairy stalk,
And with wrath he grows more red